

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 14 February 2008

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Beck Conference Room
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Committee-II: Present: Victoria Almeida Esq., (Vice Chair), Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Gary Gaube, Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, RN, PhD, Robert Hamel, RN, Denise Panichas, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Rev. David F. Shire (Secretary)

Not Present: Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Wallace Gernt, Maria Gil

Staff: Valentina Adamova, Loreen Angell, Michael Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. The Chair noted that

conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of Project Review Committee-II minutes of 16 August 2007, 18 October 2007, 17 January 2008 and 31 January 2008 were accepted as submitted. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of seven in favor with none opposed (7-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Coia, Gaube, Graziano, Panichas, Quigley, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The next item on the agenda was the application of Independence Health Services, LLC for initial licensure to establish a Home Nursing Care Provider Agency at One Richmond Square in Providence.

Mr. Goulet, legal counsel to the applicant, described the proposal and the qualifications of the principle parties involved. Ms. Hanrahan, RN, MBA is an Associate Director of Nursing at RI Hospital and will function as the Nursing Director. Mr. Hanrahan, CEO, is a fraud investigator at the RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT). Mr. Harrison is a former Cambodian refugee. He discussed the problems with access to health care among this population and other Southeast Asian immigrants. Often the only health care available is to call 911 in an emergency when the patient is already very sick. Mr.

Harrison, the applicant's outreach coordinator, described the emphasis of this application primarily, but not entirely, on home health care services to these populations, particularly in the South Providence community. Ms. Panichas member asked about translators and interpreters. Mr. Harrison replied that the applicant planned to use trained, native-speaking professionals to provide services. Ms. Panichas asked the applicant to provide more details about the outreach program, and the applicant agreed.

Ms. Panichas asked about the coordination with other service agencies in the community and ways in which the applicant was planning to assure continuity of care and take advantage of case management already occurring. She requested, and the applicant agreed, to provide more details about the outreach program and letters of support from community agencies. The applicant was also requested to provide more detail on the business proposal, specifically a budget narrative describing each of the items, and additional clarification on the training and staffing plan. The applicant noted that the plan was to use per diem staff in lieu of full time employees.

The Vice Chair noted that she was acquainted with Mr. Colin Hanrahan, a fraud investigator at the RI Department of Labor and Training, over the past ten years and knew him to be a person of good character—trustworthy, honest, hardworking, and with high integrity. She noted his father's career as a workers' compensation

investigator and the history of family's commitment to the community and public service.

The applicant noted that Cambodians were the primary, but not sole, service population proposed to be served and agreed to provide more information. Ms. Panichas asked the applicant to strongly consider working closely with community agencies.

The Chair asked if the applicant intended to include pediatric or newborn home services. The applicant replied that the agency has no experience in this area at this time and did not intend to provide this service.

Staff said that they would provide the applicant with the conditions applied to other home nursing care applicants. Staff also asked about the 24/7 staffing of the office given the full-time employment of Ms. Hanrahan and Mr. Hanrahan. Mr. Harrison said that he would staff the office full-time. This raised a question regarding the location of the office on the East Side of Providence. The applicant replied that the services are not office-based (patients do not come to the office), but said that they were considering a move closer to South Providence. The Chair requested that the applicant provide information on training.

The Chair thanked the applicant and advised that staff would send them questions for a written response and review at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Marshall, PhD